

DIARY C

[5]

Beginning December 15, 1933, and ending July 6, 1934.
Relating to the collecting of natural history specimens
for the Smithsonian Institution by -

David C. Graham

The last box filled was No. 260. The last mammal was
No. 1263.

December 15, 1933. The new netter Dai has been
working regularly, with meager success on account of the cold
weather.

The netter Yao has returned from Kuanshien with
nearly a box of insects after they have been culled out or
picked over.

We have used the night lantern and recently nothing
at all has been caught such as night moths. A curious thing
is that several species of butterflies are still to be found.
It seems as though the butterflies are more hardy than the
moths. I have forwarded the large shipment of skins to
Chungking in care of a friend, Rev. A. P. Quentin. I told
him to send them to Dr. Tompkins at Suifu, who would send them
on by steamer. I had a fine passport from the Szechuan
Government in Dr. Tompkin's hands. Mr. Quentin sent them by
a Chinese cargo boat to Chungking, which is very much less
safe, although it is very much cheaper. I hope for good luck
in their reaching Chungking safely; I have telegraphed to
Dr. Tompkins to send the all-important passport on to Gordon
Jones at Chungking, who can ship them on to Shanghai by means
of a foreign steamship company.

January 2, 1934. A few weeks ago the Wa Si
aborigine collector Li Song Hin was seriously ill and would
have died if I had not sent him to the hospital.

Two days ago Ho Son Chuen came in with the news that
Yang Hong Tsang had been burnt to death by a forest fire while
hunting the tarkin on a very high mountain. We are trying to
recover his body and give him a decent burial. This will be
very hard on his family, for he was their main means of sup-
port.

This is the hardest luck I have met in all my years
collecting. He was much more like a son to me than a hired
man. He has been one of my most dependable workers for many
years. My new year was not a very happy one.

January 8, 33. Yang Hong Tsang may have been murdered. I have written to the officials to investigate and sent back Ho Son Chuen to finish up everything and bury Yang Ho Tsang.

January 12, 1934. More troubles. I got an air mail letter from Rev. Gordon Jones at Chungking, of the Canadian Business Agency, saying that in spite of our passports the customs people have held up the 24 boxes of animal skins and bones. The names of the skins, the numbers, and the weights of skins and bones were required. I'm replying by air mail.

January 13, 1934. Today I sent Yao as a spy to find out what is being done about the death of Yang Hong Tsang.

January 22, 1933.

1. Mammal 1264 female mt. goat dark brown
2. Ditto 1265
3. 1266 female gray-black mt. goat white tail
Ditto 1267 male black monkey
Ditto 1268 male black monkey purchased.
No. 1269 wild rat.

I have been reckoning accounts with Ho Son Chuen, the Skinner. His measurements are not very dependable.

There are a couple of nice-looking mountain goats, one a new kind to my collecting. There is a pheasant that is also new to my collecting.

1274 is a weasel.

1270 - 1306 wild rats, moles & squirrels (2).

I am working a little each day to get the recent collection ready to ship.

January 29, 1934. Filled box No. 261 Rat skeletons.

Box 262

4 pheasants

2 wa wa gi male

1 " " female

1 Shan' za² tsi³

Box 263 small box of rat bones value @ 3.00

Box 264 - 5, Insects.

Box 266, 34 ratskins.

January 29, 1934. Two days ago the hunter Li Song Hin came in with six regular tarkin. One straight-horned tarkin, 3 antelope (cliff asses), 2 white Pandas, 2 gray mountain goats, female, 1 cliff goat, 1 lynx, 3 weasels, 2 squirrels, 1 yellow cat.

We valued them at:

6 tarkin	\$300.00
1 small tarkin	40.00
3 antelope	120.00
2 white pandas	100.00
4 black deer	80.00
2 Pan Yang	50.00
1 cliff goat	15.00
1 lynx	20.00
1 yellow cat	8.00
weasels, etc.	3.00
Total	\$ 725.00

While the amount totals a larger sum, I got the hunter to agree on \$725.00 Mexican.

January 30, 1934. Filled boxes 267, 10 birds.

Filled box 268, 5 birds, 4 skeletons.

Filled box 269, 10 birds.

Filled box 270, 1 small black monkey, 1 lb.

1 brown mountain goat, 4 catties.

Filled box 271

1 black deer 3 catties

1 white tailed mountain goat 1-1/2 catties

Box 272 Snake value - - \$3.00

Box 273, Insects " - - 3.00

Box 274 Snake value - - - 3.00

Mammal 1307

Box 275, Insects

Box 276, 6 mamal skins value 10.00

Box 277 contains mammal 1307 and 1267, weight 4 catties.

Box 278 a mountain duck pheasant, a red pheasant vanu, a brown pheasant

Mammal 13072 a lynx 1-1/2 catties.

Mammal 1308 yellow cat 1 catty.

Mammal 1309 weasel ♂

Mammal 1310 weasel ♂

Mammal 1311 weasel ♀

Mammal 1312 squirrel

Mammal 1313 squirrel

All but 1307 in Box 276.

Today mailed 7 boxes of specimens and packed more. Spent some time labelling specimens.

February 1, 1934. Filled box 279. Insects value 3.00
mammal 1314.

Mailed today seven boxes of specimens and packed
four more for shipping.

February 2, 1933. Mailed four larger boxes of
specimens. Filled box 280 skulls of mammals.. In box 281
mammal 1333 is the female hanyang or large-horned goat.

Box 282 a black mt. goat skin No. 1331 \$12.00.

Box 283 is skin 1328.

A white-black mountain goat \$10.00.

February 5, 1934. Mailed two more large boxes of
specimens. The carpenter is making boxes in which the large
skins may be packed.

February 6, 1934. Box 284 animal 1330.

Box 285 animal 1329.

Today we dried one of the White Panda skins which
had not been thoroughly dried. We filled the above boxes for
shipping.

I killed two ^{tiny} tame woodpeckers and had them skinned.

February 7, 1934. Today I weighed the skins and
put most of them in large boxes for shipment. Filled Box 285,
animal skulls 6.00 286, same 4.00. Box 287, skull, \$4.00
288, animal skin 12.00. The skins mentioned above are being
prepared for shipment. I am required to give their names and
weights by the customs officials.

No. 1317, White Panda 13 catties 17 lbs.
No. 1324, talsin 23 lbs.
No. 1323, " 15 "
No. 1318, " 42 "
No. 1322, " 38 "
No. 1314, " 42 "
No. 1320, " 22 "
No. 1315, Antelope cliff ass 14 lbs.
No. 1316, " " " 13 lbs.
No. 1321, " " " 14 lbs.
No. 1319, Talsin 16 Lbs.
No. 1325, White Panda 19 lbs.
No. 1326, Wild Boar 15 lbs.
No. 1327, White Panda 21 lbs.
Wght 25 cats.

Box 289, value	282
Box 290, value	\$30.00
Box 291, value	25.00
Box 292, value	40.00
Box 293, value	35.00
Box 294, value	40.00
Box 298, value	20.00
Box 296, value	20.00
Box 297, value	20.00
Box 298, value	20.00
Box 299, value	20.00
Box 300, value	25.00
Box 301, -	6.00
Box 302, -	25.00
Box 303, value 20, bones and skulls	
Box 304, two animal skulls, weight 10 lbs, value	\$6.00
Box 305, animal skull and fish, value	6.00
Box 306, two animal skulls, 33 lbs, value	\$10.00
307 two animal skulls, value	\$10.00, weight 20 lbs.

February 14, 1934. Today the customs official came and inspected the 19 boxes I am next to ship to Shanghai for the Smithsonian Institution. Because the Smithsonian Institution is sending type specimens to the West China Union University, no export duty is being charged, and a passport is being issued. Mr. Starrett, an American citizen, is taking them all to Shanghai as a personal favor.

February 23, 1934. I have recently worked up the Smithsonian accounts and found that the money on hand is very low. I therefore wrote to Dr. Wetmore urging that more money be sent me at once. There are some fine mammal skins on the way here, and I may have to refuse them or advance the money out of my own pocket. Because of the shortness of money I am having to let my two mammal collectors work for Smith of the Field Museum this spring, hoping that next fall I can hire them again.

March 30, 1934. Recently I have bought some good mammal skins at a reduced price. I am telling the hunters that I can not buy any large animal skins for awhile.

Ho is constantly getting birds and skinning them. The two netters are getting a few insects.

April 3, 1934. The Skinner Ho is buying rare birds in the city and skinning them. There are two netters, Yao and Zen.

Hereafter I will refuse all large animals until finances get better.

April 7th, 1934. I have sold a tarkin skin, a white Panda skin and a leopard skin. I have purchased for the Smithsonian:

2 white Pandas
1 with a complete skelet
1 White Panda bdy
4 small animals

I paid for white Panda and skeleton 40.00
White panda - - - - - 30.00
Baby Panda - - - - - 12.00
3 small mammals - - - - - 10.00

Mammal No.	Price
1328, white Panda & skeleton - - - - -	40.00
1329, white Panda, skull - - - - -	30.00
1330, flying squirrel)	
1331 - 2. small ani-) - - - - -	10.00
mals with skulls)	
1333 - wild cat	
1334, Red deer ♀ - - - - -	40.00
1335, Baby White Panda - - - - -	12.00
1336, antelope - - - - -	20.00
from Mufin with entire skeleton	
1337, Mountain sheep with whole	
skeleton from Mufin - - - - -	7.00
1338, deer from near Wen Chuan with	
skull - - - - -	23.00

I have sold one good panda skin and one good female talsin skin and a leopard skin so as to save expenses. Mammal 1339 is a golden-haired monkey from Wen Chuan Shien.

Box 308, Insects from Hanchow near Chengtu Szechuen, China in 308.

Box 309, animal skins and insects value 9.00
Box 310 small white Panda skin \$10.00
Box 311, Deer skin \$30
(Paid \$40.00 No. 1334 14 catties.
Box 312, White Panda
Box 313, White panda No. 17 catties No. 1328.
Box 314, Female talsin from Wen Chuan Shien 23.00

315 Skin of a wolf 5.00 and a golden-haired monkey 12.00.

April 21, 1934. Animal No. 1340 - White Panda.

Box No. 316, mammal 1338 value, 17 catties.

Box 317, White Panda \$6.00, 11 catties,

Mammal 1340

Box 318, No. 1340

6 catties mountain goat 7.00

Box 319, Bones of White panda \$12.00

17 catties.

Box 320, Bones of mountain goat

skull of white panda \$6.00

9 catties

Box 321, Bones of antelope 10.00

18 catties.

Box 322, mammal 1336

10 catties

323, Skull bones, value 5.00

\$10.00

10 catties.

Mammal 1341 is a fox, purchased at Chengtu, April 18, 34

April 21, 1934. Today I weighed the above skins and labelled boxes. I want to make plans to ship these out as soon as possible.

I received a letter from Kiating about a very rare animal skin. I could get it for about \$40.00 gold. I covet it for the Smithsonian but I'm afraid to buy it until I hear that a check has been sent.

324 animal skin.

April 26, 1934. Recently the netter Yao returned from Kuanshien where he has been working in the hills. He was handicapped by rainy weather but brought back three boxes. I have not had time to sift them out thoroughly.

Box 325 is insects from Chengtu.

Boxes 326 - 8 are insects from Kuanshien altitude 2,500 to 3,500 feet.

April 30, 34. The Skinner Ho has gone on vacation. I will start night moth catching at once.

May 26, 1934. I have laid off the netter Yao for a month. I have written several very urgent letters to the Smithsonian Institution requesting information as to what money could be available for next year, and also asking that the remainder of the \$1000.00 promised for the year 1933-34 be forwarded to me. I have received no response whatever. I dare not, therefore, make definite plans for next summer's work. I have a shipment of skins I'd like to get sent off, but I am afraid to send them without further information and assurance that money from the Smithsonian Institution will be forthcoming.

June 4, 1934. I am laying off collectors because I have no information that money has been sent me at Shanghai. I have laid off the collector Yao a month. Ren is collecting at Kuanshien. He brought back 4 boxes of insects and is going again tomorrow.

One thing I have not mentioned in these notes. My wife was in the hospital six weeks during March and April. She was so near death that she was not expected to live. In May she had a major operation from which she is now in the hospital recovering.

June 11, 34. We have received news that money has been provided for further work, and has been received at Shanghai.

Son

Ho Son Chuan has returned from his vacation. San is beginning to practice up for the summer work. I have received a government passport for the shipment of animal skins, and will send it off at the first opportunity. I will mail some bird skins and some insects.

Box 329 is 25 birdskins,
value 6.00
Box 330 - 8 bird skeletons
4 bottles insects
value 3.00
Box 331, Birdskins
value \$3.00
Box 332 - 5 Insects
value 3.00 each

June 14, 34. Mailed
Five boxes of specimens.

June 15, 1934. Filled box 336, a mammal, small fox
value \$3.00

June 22, 34. Filled Boxes 337 - 9 Insects from
Kuanshien.

Yesterday I opened all the boxes of skins and bones and with shelltox killed all the insects, and put more arsenic on the skins.

We tried to stop up all the cracks.

June 27, 1934. Yesterday the mammal collector arrived with:

2 wild oxen
1 Baby wild ass
4 white pandas
2 Racoons or badgers
1 Leopard
1 Mt. goat
1 pheasant
1 baby bear
1 Bab. badger

I bought the entire lot for \$117.00.

The insects are terrible and it will be exceedingly hard to save these. One white panda has a whole skeleton. One wild ass also has. The rest have heads and feet.

I have called carpenters and am making boxes for them.

Mammal 1342 = a badger, male.

An infant mammal 1343 is an infant leopard fr. a lynx, infant of No.

Mammal 1350 is a baby black bear.
No. 1344 wild ox with skeleton, male box 384.
Box 381 - 1345 wild ox without skeleton.
1346 Lynx, mother
1347 White Panda with skeleton, Box 379.
1348 White Panda Box 383
1349 White Panda Box 382
1350 Baby black bear
1351 Baby cliff ass
1356 Mountain goat.
1357-8 Grown up Badgers.
Box 340, Three mammal skins \$5.00
Baby bear, lynx, and badger
Box 341 baby cliff ass value \$6.00
Box 342 two badgers \$6.00
Box 343 = Mountain goat \$6.00

Box 344, Leopard skin mother of the baby lynx,
value \$7.00

Box 345 Insects from Chengtu \$2.00

June 30, 1934. Hard work Packing for the trip.

July 3rd, 1934. We started for Mt. Omei, reaching Kiating July 4, and Mt. Omei July 6th. Mr. Pen of the University and Yao the netter are with me. Mr. San and Mr. Pen are to join me at Kiating July 18, and we will go down to Suifu, to collect on the Szechuan Yunnan Border.